

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 GENEVA 01553 031534Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
-----031543 004137 /43

P 031505Z MAR 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE PRIORITY 5613

S E C R E T GENEVA 1553

EXDIS

FROM AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON

DEPT PLEASE PASS NSC, OSD, JCS

E.O. 11652: XGDS
TAGS: PLOS
SUBJECT: LOS - JAPAN

REF: A. GENEVA 1512, B. TOKYO 2827

1. REF A INDICATES THAT BECAUSE OF SERIOUS DOMESTIC
POLITICAL PRESSURES JAPAN, HOWEVER RELUCTANTLY, MAY DO
SIGNIFICANT HARM TO US NATIONAL SECURITY OF INTERESTS IN
STRAITS. DIRECT IMPACT OF JAPANESE OPPOSITION TO OVER-
FLIGHT, SUBMERGED PASSAGE, AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN STRAITS
ON MANY LOS CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS, AS WELL AS INDIRECT
EFFECT OF AROUSING PROFOUND SOVIET SUSPICIONS, ARE LIKELY
TO BE SERIOUS. 'MOREOVER, PUBLIC JAPANESE POSITION COULD
OVER TIME HAVE DIRECT IMPACT ON US OPERATIONS OFF JAPAN,
DESPITE INTENT TO CONTRARY.)

2. ACCORDINGLY, I BELIEVE THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL MERIT
IN RECOMMENDING THAT THE PRESIDENT EXPRESS HIS CONCERN
OVER STRAITS ISSUE TO JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER. THE
PRESIDENT NEED NOT GO INTO DETAIL, ALTHOUGH LANGUAGE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 GENEVA 01553 031534Z

SHOULD BE BROAD ENOUGH TO COVER OUR CONCERNS ABOUT BOTH
UNILATERAL JAPANESE LEGISLATION AND JAPANESE POSITION ON
STRAITS AT LOS CONFERENCE. THE PRESIDENT MIGHT REFER TO
MY PROJECTED VISIT WITH JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER IN TOKYO
MARCH 26 AS APPROPRIATE OCCASION TO GO INTO SUBSTANCE OF
MATTER, PARTICULARLY SINCE VISIT IS FIRST LEG OF TRIP
TO MALACCA STRAITS STATES FOR VERY PURPOSE OF PROTECTING

MUTUAL US-JAPANESE NAVIGATION INTERESTS IN STRAITS AND
ARCHIPELAGOS.

3. IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT SINCE PRIMARY DIRECT
JAPANESE INTEREST IN FREE NAVIGATION AND FREE TRANSIT OF
STRAITS RELATES TO COMMERCIAL (PARTICULARLY TANKER)
TRAFFIC, US ABILITY TO SECURE JAPANESE COOPERATION ON
MILITARY ASPECTS WOULD BE UNDERCUT SHOULD THE ADMINISTRATION
FAIL TO OPPOSE NEW LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING UNILATERAL
CONTROL OVER FOREIGN TANKER TRAFFIC OFF US COAST THAT IS
NOT ENTERING OR LEAVING US PORTS, AS THIS WOULD CONCEDE
AND ENCOURAGE SIMILAR (IF NOT BROADER) ASCERTIONS OF CON-
TROL BY OTHER COASTAL STATES. (SIMILAR NEGOTIATING
PROBLEM WOULD ARISE WITH CERTAIN OTHER STATES CURRENTLY
SUPPORTING FREE TRANSIT, INCLUDING SOME ARABS.)
MY MEMORANDUM OF LAST WEEK OUTLINES OTHER REASONS WHY
ACTION DIRECTED ONLY TO VESSELS USING US PORTS (POSSIBLY
ACCOMPANIED BY PARALLEL CANADIAN AND MEXICAN ACTION) IS
MOST DESIRABLE AND EFFECTIVE MEANS TO ACHIEVE ADDITIONAL
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR US COASTAL AREAS. IF THIS
IS THE APPROACH WE DECIDE ON, THERE MIGHT BE MERIT IN
MENTIONING THE RELEVANCE OF OUR DECISION TO AVOID EN-
COURAGING FOREIGN COASTAL STATE CLAIMS TO JAPANESE GLOBAL
TRADE AND NAVIGATION INTERESTS.

4. ODS AND JCS REPS HERE CONCUR. CATTO

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED OSD, JCS.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 GENEVA 01553 031534Z

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, LAW OF THE SEA, STRAITS, ARCHIPELAGOS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GENEVA01553
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DC ADJUSTED PER GENEVA 1816
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770073-0756
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770398/aaaadiez.tel
Line Count: 96
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 15afd7be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 GENEVA 1512, 77 TOKYO 2827
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3222277
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOS - JAPAN
TAGS: PLOS, US, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/15afd7be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009